

Washington, DC - 12th District Representative John Barrow (D-GA) was selected this week to join the House Committee on Agriculture, a powerful standing committee responsible for helping sustain our nation's agricultural production and ensure the safety of our food supply.

"I'm excited to have earned a seat on this extremely important committee," Barrow said. "Agriculture has always been a critical part of Georgia's identity and economy. To help promote our state's future prosperity, it's vital that we continue investing in all of our agricultural interests."

Barrow's membership on the Committee will be a boost for families all across Georgia's 12th Congressional District. In addition to the urban centers of Athens, Augusta, and Savannah, the 12th District encompasses many rural communities where agriculture plays a central role. According to the United States Department of Agriculture's 2002 Census of Agriculture, there are 3,081 farms in the 12th District, with the market value of production topping \$200 million.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve with my colleagues on this Committee - working to support our nation's farmers and maintain a healthy food supply," Barrow said.

Some of the Committee's central responsibilities include stabilizing the price of agricultural products; food inspection; crop insurance; farm credit and farm security; rural development; and helping maintain healthy forest reserves. The committee also has oversight functions over the United States Department of Agriculture and certain aspects of the Food and Drug Administration.

Since the Committee also has jurisdiction over agricultural colleges, economics, and research, Barrow will work to provide Georgia's colleges and universities with the additional support they need to expand their agricultural research facilities.

The House Committee on Agriculture is the second committee assignment Representative Barrow has received since taking office. Earlier this month, Barrow was named to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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Contact: Harper Lawson, (202) 225-2823

